

# Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

**WHEREAS, *Spinal Muscular Atrophy* (SMA)** is a motor neuron disease which affects the voluntary muscles that are used for activities and basic functions of life such as crawling, walking, head and neck control, swallowing, and breathing, but the person's ability to think, learn, and build relationships with others are not affected; and

**WHEREAS,** SMA is the leading genetic cause of death for infants, affecting one in 11,000 babies, and it crosses all racial, ethnic and religious boundaries, it can strike anyone of any age or gender, and one in approximately 50 Americans is a genetic carrier for the disease; and

**WHEREAS,** in December 2016, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first-ever treatment for Spinal Muscular Atrophy, which has been proven to be most effective when administered as soon as possible, and screening of newborn babies for the disease is an important preventative to the detrimental effects of the condition; and

**WHEREAS,** increased awareness of SMA will lead to expanded knowledge and increased support for both needed disease research and for the families affected by the disease, hopefully leading to a cure; and

**WHEREAS,** the month of August has been named *National Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month* by Patient Groups to bring attention to this devastating disease and to promote research to find treatments and ultimately, a cure; and

**WHEREAS,** Patient Groups and other organizations from around the nation plan awareness events during the month of August in recognition of National Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month, and locally, the Cure SMA – Greater Florida Chapter is hosting its **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Cure SMA Day at the Rays** on Sunday, August 26, 2018, during the Tampa Bay Rays versus the Boston Red Sox baseball game to help promote SMA and raise needed funding for research into this devastating disease.

**NOW THEREFORE,** I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of August 2018 as

## ***“NATIONAL SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY AWARENESS MONTH”***

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to support Spinal Muscular Atrophy organizations, including Cure SMA who has raised more than \$70 million in research to develop treatments, support clinical trials, and find a cure, bringing hope to families.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2018.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor

